

CT DEEP **2015**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 29
10/29/2015



Channel Catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*)



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INLAND REPORT

TROUT- Stocking update.

DEEP's fall trout stockings completed. From early September through late October, DEEP released 29,000 "trophy" and "adult" sized trout into selected waters throughout the state. Approximately 5,000 were "trophy" size Brown Trout (all greater than 12 inches in length), 8,000 were "trophy" size Rainbow Trout, 1,000 were broodstock Brown and Brook Trout, and the remaining 15,000 "adults" were standard size (9-10 inch) Rainbow Trout. In addition to these fish, the Farmington River was stocked with 2,000 "trophy" size Brown Trout just before the Labor Day weekend. Note that stockings in a number of areas were delayed or postponed due to environmental conditions (primarily low to very low flows in many streams) and **several areas typically stocked in the fall, the Hammonasset River, Mianus River TMA, Mill River TMA (Fairfield) and Pomperaug River, were not stocked this fall due to low flows.**

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Conditions for the upcoming weekend and next weekend should be fairly good, with mostly dry, comfortable weather forecast and flows much improved by this week's rain. Rivers and streams throughout the state are now at or above typical late fall levels (see stream flow graphic on page 4) with a few possibly on the high side for several days and not that comfortable for fishing (stream flows for a number of areas can be found at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt>).

Fair to good reports for last week from the Shetucket River, Naugatuck River, Housatonic River, Saugatuck River and Farmington River. Streamers (#2-12) on 2X tippet (9 am-1 pm during low light periods/overcast days) and nymphing are being used by many anglers. For streamers try white, yellow and brown colors and for patterns, try White Wooly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, and Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Midday try bottom bouncing nymphs with Caddis pupa (#14-16), Serendipity (#14-16), Pheasant Tail (#12-20), Prince (#6-18), Golden Stoneflies (#8) and Hare's ear (#8-20).

FIND TROUT STOCKING MAPS ON OUR WEBSITE

Maps of all of the state's trout streams and rivers showing the many stocking and access points are available online at:
www.ct.gov/deep/troutstockingmaps.



Farmington River – Fishing has been good and conditions should be very good for the weekend. West Branch flows are clearing and have increased to more moderate levels (currently 125 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River adding another 263 cfs). Look for flows to drop a bit through the weekend (and likely increase some next week). Water temperatures are in the mid 50's°F.

Hatches/patterns include *Isonychia* (#12-14, parachute style), *Needhami*, Blue Wing Olives (#20-26, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #14-16, all day; brown #16-18), Black Ants (#14-18), Midges (#16-22, morning), Stoneflies (#8-14; black, brown and gold/yellow) and Rusty Spinner (#14-24, morning). An 8 foot 6 inch 5-weight fly rod with a 9 foot leader and 6X tippet is recommended for current flows. It's also a good time for streamers.

Housatonic River – Fishing has been very good and weekend conditions should be good. Flows are clear, a bit above typical late fall levels but still comfortable for fishing (current flows are 748 cfs at Falls Village and 981 cfs at Gaylordsville) and morning water temperatures are in the low to mid 50's°F. A 9 foot 4-weight fly rod with a 9 foot leader and 7X tippet is recommended for this flow.

Hatches/patterns. The main hatch is the Blue Wing Olive (#18-22, early morning; spinner fall in evening), others include *Isonychia* (#10-12 evening), Midges (#20-26) and Brown/tan caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening), Flying Ants (#14-18) and Light Cahill CDC (#12-14).

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS - Trout fishing has been really variable. Places to try include East Twin Lake, Crystal Lake (Ellington; in 2-3 feet of water near the outlet into Crystal Lake Brook), Black Pond (Woodstock), Tyler Pond, Highland Lake (near the inlets), Stillwater Pond, Mashapaug Lake and Beach Pond (near the causeway). Check out some of the trout parks for nice fishing, locations include the Chatfield Hollow (Schreeder Ponds), Day Pond, Mohegan Park Pond, Valley Falls Park Pond, Wolfe Park (Great Hollow Pond), Black Rock Pond, and Wharton Brook Trout Parks.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is reported as fair with fall turnover occurring in some waterbodies.

Target suspended fish over deeper water using jigs (1 oz.), also the outside edges of weed

lines are holding some bigger fish. Places to try Lake Lillinonah (drawdown starts late Sunday), Bantam Lake, Winchester Lake, East Twin Lake, Wononskopomuc Lake (closes October 31), Candlewood Lake, Crystal Lake, and Silver Lake (Berlin/Meriden). **Tournament angler** reports are from Aspinook Pond (fair at best for largemouth), Gardner Lake (fair to good action, but fish averaged out at a little more than 1 lb apiece, with a 2.06 lb lunker), Mashapaug Lake (slow to fair action for two clubs, nothing too big, with 2.70 & 2.68 lb lunkers), Powers Lake, very slow and with only a 1.12 lb lunker) and Candlewood Lake (on the slow side, but with a 5.45 lb lunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS are reported at Lake Lillinonah, Candlewood Lake (although the roller coaster ride continues here with slower action this past week) and West Hill Pond. **Tournament angler** reports are from Aspinook Pond (good for smallmouth, with a 3.75 lb lunker), Mashapaug



ZEBRA MUSSELS REMINDER

Zebra mussels are now found in a number of locations scattered throughout the Housatonic River and its impoundments including Lake Lillinonah (since 2010), Lake Zoar (since 2010) and Lake Housatonic (since 2011).

Prior to their discovery in Lakes Lillinonah and Zoar in 2010, zebra mussels had been found (1998) in CT only in East Twin Lake and West Twin Lake (Salisbury). Anglers fishing in any of these waters and western Connecticut in general **should use extra care to avoid transporting water, aquatic vegetation, and possibly zebra mussels to new locations.** Information

For more information including precautions that should be taken to prevent the spread of zebra mussels to additional waters, visit www.ct.gov/deep/invasivespecies or the Aquatic Invasive species section of the 2015 CT angler's Guide(www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide).

Lake (very slow for smallies) and Candlewood Lake (on the slow side, 2.68 lbunker for one club).

ATLANTIC SALMON have been reported from the Shetucket River and Crystal Lake. DEEP has stocked 1,146 broodstock Atlantic salmon so far this fall, with Crystal Lake (125 salmon) Mount Tom Pond (125 salmon), the upper Naugatuck River (224 salmon), lower Naugatuck River (224 salmon) and Shetucket River (448 salmon) all stocked at least once. Following spawning later this fall, DEEP expects additional salmon from the Kensington Hatchery will be available for stocking in November. *For a summary of Atlantic salmon fishing regulations see page 4.*

WALLEYE catches are reported from Saugatuck Reservoir and Squantz Pond.

NORTHERN PIKE fall bite is producing many good size fish, with reports from Lake Lillinonah, Bantam Lake and Winchester Lake. Other pike lakes include Pachaug Pond, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Quaddick Lake and Winchester Lake.

PANFISH are providing some late-fall action. Use worms, grubs, jigs or small poppers for them. Areas to try include Park Pond, Dog Pond, Winchester Lake, Wood Creek Pond, Tyler Lake, Roseland Lake, Red Cedar Lake, Griggs Pond, Silver Lake (Meriden), Black Pond (Woodstock), Mudge Pond, Norwich Pond, Pine Acres Lake, Salters Pond and Ross Pond.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

Following Wednesday's rains, the river is now higher than typical late October levels, and turbid, but still at boatable/fishable levels. Note that the river may rise a bit more before beginning to drop again.

PANFISH action on small shiners was good last week in the back of coves. **CARP** fishing has been good. They have put on the feed big time and can be brought to the mat by pre baiting your area with a good method. One mixture to try is one can of cream style corn and one tub of oat meal, flavored with cayenne pepper or cherry soda. Pack it around a method feeder and attach a corn-baited hair rig or popup rig. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** are being caught in the coves, around Haddam Meadows and along the Middletown area. **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing was reported as good to very good. Areas to try include the Middletown area and Haddam Meadows/Salmon River Cove area (just below the Salmon River boat launch has been productive of late). **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are still coming to net north of Hartford. **CHANNEL CATFISH** are responding to chunk and cut-bait. From south of Hartford to the Salmon River area has been productive.

LAKE & POND BATHYMETRIC MAPS

Bathymetric maps of many of Connecticut's public access lakes and ponds can be found online at:

www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/general_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf

Both plain line maps and maps overlaying an aerial photo available.

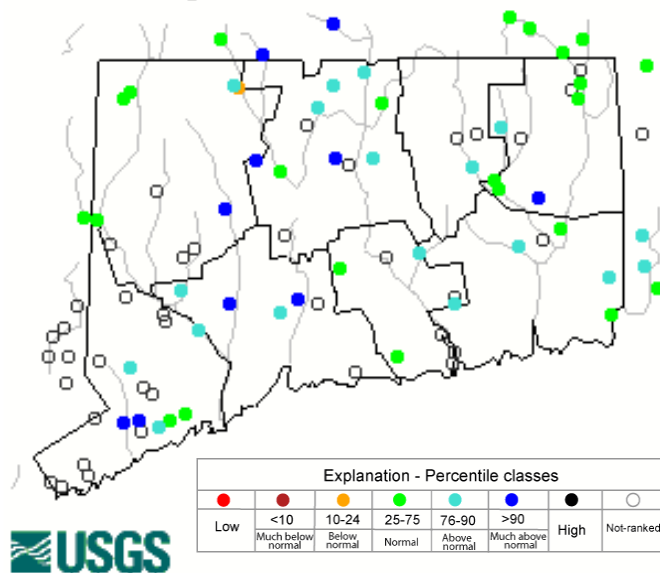


Atlantic salmon fishing regulations and areas summary

- **Regulations for Atlantic salmon on the Shetucket and Naugatuck Rivers.** In the Naugatuck, Housatonic and Shetucket Rivers, from September 1 through November 30, angling for Atlantic salmon is restricted to **catch-and-release only**. From December 1, 2015, through March 31, 2016, the daily creel limit for Atlantic salmon will be one. During the open season in the rivers, the legal method for taking Atlantic salmon is limited to angling using a single fly, or an artificial lure with a single free swinging hook and no additional weight can be added to the line above the fly or lure. Also, from October 1st through March 31st, fishing for other species in the designated Atlantic Salmon “Broodstock Areas” is restricted to the gear legal for Atlantic salmon.
- On the **Shetucket River**, anglers can fish for salmon downstream from the Scotland Dam (Windham) to the Water Street Bridge in Norwich (the first bridge upstream of Norwich Harbor). The salmon are stocked into one designated Atlantic Salmon “Broodstock Area”, from the Scotland Dam to the Occum Dam.
- Anglers are allowed to fish for salmon in the **Naugatuck River** from the confluence of the East and West Branches (Torrington) downstream to the Housatonic River (Derby). Anglers may also fish for Atlantic salmon in the Housatonic River downstream of Derby Dam. The salmon are typically stocked into two designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas on the Naugatuck River, the “Campville Section” of the upper Naugatuck River from Route 118 downstream to the Thomaston Flood Control Dam (Litchfield-Thomaston) and the “Beacon Falls Section” of the lower Naugatuck, from Prospect Street (Naugatuck) downstream to Pines Bridge Road (Route 42 bridge, Beacon Falls). From October 1st through March 31st, fishing for other species in these designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas is restricted to the gear legal for Atlantic salmon.
- The regulations for Atlantic salmon released into lakes and ponds are different from the regulations for salmon on the Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers. **In each lake, the regulations for methods, seasons and minimum lengths for salmon will be the same as for trout in that specific water body but the daily creel limit will be one salmon per day.** (Please refer to the 2015 CT Angler’s Guide for trout regulations).

Stream flow conditions as of 10/29/2015

Thursday, October 29, 2015 19:30ET



Data in the state graphic to the left are generated by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) and are available on line at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt>. A percentile is a value on a scale of one hundred that indicates the percent of data in the data set equal to or below it. For example streamflow greater than the 75th percentile means only ¼ of the streamflow values were above the value and thus would be considered “above normal”. Stream flow between the 25th and 50th are considered to be “normal flows” and those 25th or less are considered to be “below normal”.

NOTES & NOTICES:

BASHAN LAKE (drawdown). Bashan Lake remains drawn down (slow refill has begun – lake currently remains down approximately 10 feet – note that refill rate is dependent on rainfall amounts) following dam repairs and the state boat launch remains closed.

BESECK LAKE. A winter drawdown was scheduled to begin last week. The lake is expected to be down by 6 feet on November 1.

COLEBROOK RIVER LAKE (boat launch). The **boat launch at Colebrook River Lake is closed until further notice** due to low water levels. Boaters should call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at 860-379-8234 for updated information.

CONNECTICUT RIVER (Haddam). The **Connecticut Yankee-Haddam Neck Power Plant discharge canal has been reopened** to public boating access. Anglers are reminded that the lands at Connecticut Yankee, including all lands immediately adjacent to the canal, remain closed to public access. Please do not beach boats or otherwise attempt to access shore in this area.

COVENTRY LAKE (invasive species alert). Fragments of hydrilla, a very highly invasive aquatic plant, was found floating near the boat launch in late September. All lake users should take extra care to check and clean their boats (including canoes, kayaks and rowing sculls), trailers, and fishing equipment before leaving the boat launch, or leaving the lakeshore.

GLASGO POND (drawdown). A drawdown of Glasgo Pond to facilitate dam repairs began September 16. Launching of boats is difficult to impossible.

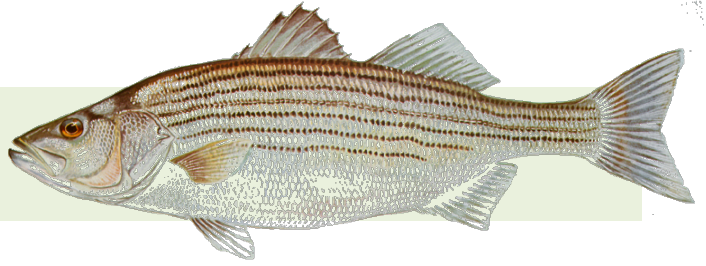
LAKE LILLINONAH is currently scheduled to be drawn down beginning November 1st and ending November 8th. Launching of trailered boats will be difficult (Route 133 launch) to impossible (Pond Brook) at the state boat launches during the drawdown.

LAKE ZOAR is currently drawn down approximately 3.5 feet from its typical level, with refilling scheduled to begin November 1st. Launching of trailered boats will be difficult at the state boat launch.

UPCOMING DRAWDOWNS. The winter drawdowns of **Highland Lake** (3 feet) in western CT and **Billings Lake** (3 feet), **Middle Bolton Lake** (1.5 feet), **Lower Bolton Lake** (1.5 feet), **Gardner Lake** (3 feet) and **Mashapaug Lake** (1.5 feet) are scheduled to start in early November.

FISHING SEASONS. Anglers are reminded that the fishing season at several lakes and ponds scattered throughout the state closes on Saturday, October 31st, most notably, **LAKE WONOSKOPOMUC**, **GREEN FALLS RESERVOIR** and **SHENIPSIT RESERVOIR**. Please refer to the 2015 CT Angler's Guide for additional locations.

MARINE FISHING REPORT



REMINDER TO ANGLERS: Whales have been reported in Long Island Sound, please see the [WHALE WATCHING GUIDELINES](#) on our website. Please note: All marine mammals are protected by the Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act. Following these recommended operational guidelines helps minimize chances of harassing or injuring whales and violating Federal law. Guidelines apply to all large whales from Maine through Virginia, except North Atlantic right whales. It is illegal to approach a right whale within 500 yards (1500 feet) unless granted specific exemption or authorization.

OUR APOLOGIES – THE MARINE FISHING REPORT IS AT A CONFERENCE THIS WEEK, BUT IT WILL BE BACK NEXT WEEK. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE.

SHARK SPECIES YOU MAY ENCOUNTER IN COASTAL WATERS OF CONNECTICUT: Although you might catch Sand Tiger and Sandbar (Brown) Sharks, they are both protected prohibited species and must be released unharmed. **IF YOU DON'T KNOW, PLEASE LET IT GO!** [Coastal shark information.](#)

GOT A FISHING REPORT - PLEASE EMAIL US AT deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov

SHORE FISHING SPOTS & TIDE TABLE INFORMATION

To find a saltwater shore fishing spot close to where you live, go to the following website:
<http://www.lisrc.uconn.edu/coastalaccess/>.

For **Enhanced Opportunity Shore Fishing** sites and other fishing information including a site map go to the following website <http://www.depdata.ct.gov/maps/saltwaterfish/map.htm>.

Please see page 60 of the [2015 CT Angler's Guide](#) for CT tide information.

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DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



**Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

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*Channel catfish and Striped Bass images
courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.*